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120329-3
(GP1-0084-C)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/777,987
Applicant : Goossens et al.
Filed : February 11, 2004
TC/A.U. : 1711
Examiner : Boykin

Assignee Docket No. : 120329-3
Attorney Docket No. : GP1-0084-C
Customer No. : 23413

Via Facsimile (703) 872-9306, TC Group 1700
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is submitted with a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132, and following a continuation application filed February 11, 2004. The amendment is submitted in accordance with the Revised Amendment Format according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, effective July 30, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application to place the case in better condition for allowance.

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-38 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 3, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 35-38 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claims 1, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, and 30 have been amended, leaving Claims 1, 4-24, 27, and 30-34 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. The claims have been amended as explained in the Remarks section. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.